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FILING DATE.

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FILING DATE: May 05, 2003

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US04/13876

By Authority of the  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS



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JCS48 U.S. PTO

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# **PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET**

This is a request for filing a **PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT** under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

Express Mail Label No. EV 232322055US

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<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto			
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)			
METHOD TO HANDLE TELEVISION PROGRAMS ENCODED WITH TWO DIFFERENT RATING SYSTEMS			
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS			
Direct all correspondence to:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number		<input type="checkbox"/> Type Customer Number here	
OR		Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	JOSEPH S. TRIPOLI, THOMSON LICENSING INC..		
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages		<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76			
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.			
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number.		07-0832	
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.			
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____			
Respectfully submitted,		Date: May 5, 2003	
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## **USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT**

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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### Method to handle television programs encoded with two different rating systems

In analog television systems (e.g., NTSC systems in the U.S.), one content rating system is received, e.g., either a US or a Canadian V-chip rating is received for a single television program in the Line21 XDS. In digital TV (e.g., ATSC systems), multiple rating systems can be received simultaneously, e.g., both a US and a Canadian V-chip rating can be received simultaneously for a single television program in the PSIP data. In such systems that receive information for multiple rating systems, a problem arises in that it is unclear how the TV should react in response to the multiple rating systems information, e.g., in response to both a US and a Canadian V-chip rating, which can be received simultaneously for a single television program in the PSIP data for an ATSC channel. A system as described herein solves this problem by defining a set of rules to determine the behavior of the television system. For example, one approach is to block the program if either one of the program's ratings has been set as blocked by the user in the television's rating setup screens.

One approach to solving the described problem would be by having the user make a menu selection to handle this specific situation, e.g., "If receiving two simultaneous ratings: (A) Use the US rating" or "(B) Use the Canadian rating". Alternatively, the TV software could be hard-coded to always follow a precedence rule, for example the US rating would always take precedence over the Canadian rating if both are received. Another alternative is to have the user select to enforce only one rating system entirely (US or Canadian) and ignore all ratings from the other rating system, or to have the TV software be hard-coded to only use one of these rating systems. For example, certain television products manufactured by Thomson, e.g., RCA brand televisions, are hard-coded to recognize only the US rating system.

A system incorporating principles of the invention for providing a solution to the problem is described in detail below. In particular, an exemplary system for solving the problem implements the following method.

If the TV is unlocked, then the current program shall be viewable.

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If the TV is locked and in the V-Chip menus (either USA V-Chip or Canada V-Chip) both of the received ratings are set as viewable, then the current program shall be viewable.

If the TV is locked and in the V-Chip menus one or both of the received ratings is set as blocked, then the current program shall be blocked.

If both a US and a Canadian rating are being simultaneously received, the information banner (and any ratings messages); shall show both ratings in the format of "<US Rating (MPAA or TV)>/<Canadian Rating (English or French)>".

Below is "pseudo-code" demonstrating how a system incorporating the invention operates for handling a program that has both a USA and a Canada program rating. A flowchart illustrating the described method and pseudo code is shown in FIG. 1.

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1. Is the TV's parental controls feature (V-chip setup menus) locked (being enforced)?
  - a. If yes, go to 2.
  - b. If no, go to 8.
2. Is the program rated?
  - a. If yes, go to 3
  - b. If no, the program is "unrated". Go to 6.
3. Has the user previously selected the first-encountered program's rating to be blocked by either USA or Canada ratings setup?
  - a. If yes, go to 7.
  - b. If no, go to 4.
4. Is there a second rating?
  - a. If yes, go to 5.
  - b. If no, go to 8.
5. Has the user previously selected the second-encountered program's rating to be blocked by either USA or Canada ratings setup?
  - a. If yes, go to 7.
  - b. If no, go to 8
6. The program is unrated. Has the user selected unrated programs to be blocked?
  - a. If yes, go to 7.
  - b. If no, go to 8.
7. Block program. Go to 1.
8. Allow program to be viewed. Go to 1.

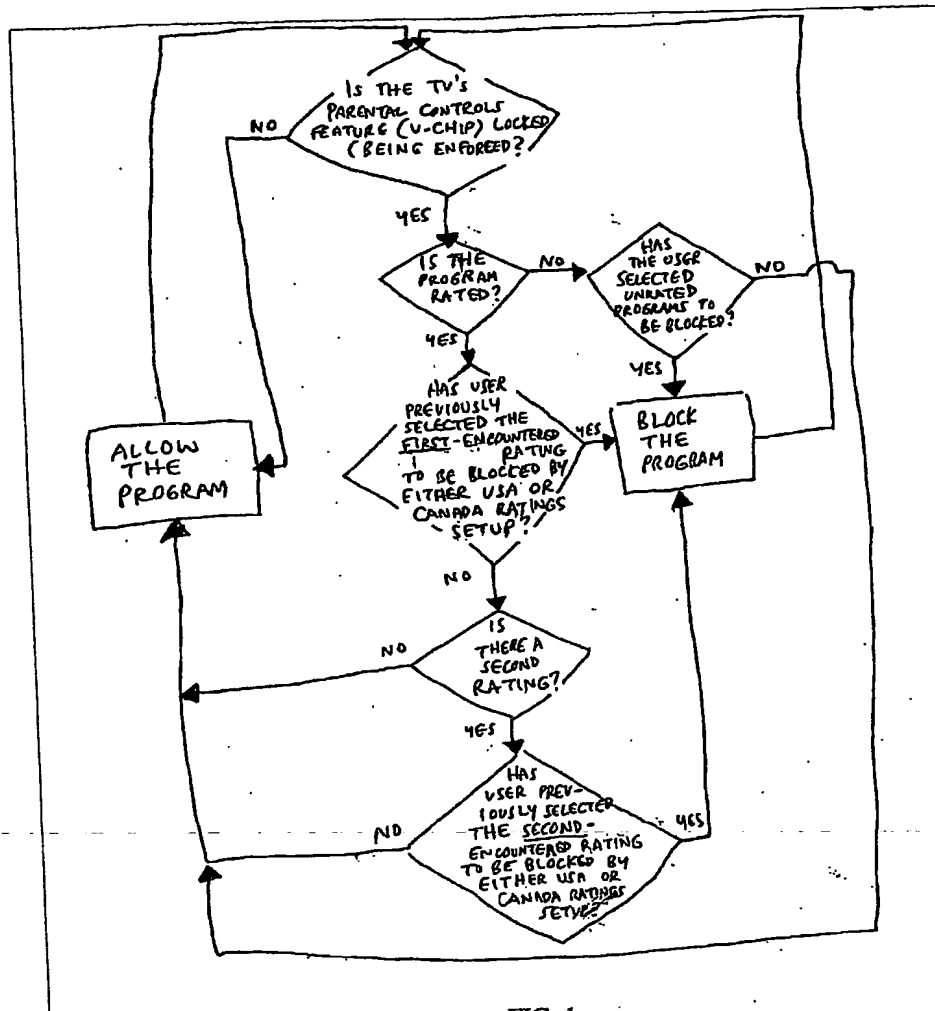


FIG. 1